

REMARKS

Introduction

The present application includes claims 1-20. With this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 9 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amended claims 2, 8, 10, 15-16 and 19-20, and added new claims 21-65. As such, claims 1-8, 10-13, and 15-65 are currently pending in this application.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-8 in the present application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 8 for informalities. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 2 and 8 have been amended to place the limitation in proper grammatical form.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 10-12 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 10 and 19 in independent claim. The presentation of claims 10 and 19 in independent form is merely a cosmetic change to original claims 10 and 19 and does not narrow the original scope of claims 10 and 19, respectively. Claims 11-13 still depend from claim 10. Claims 15-16 and 20 are amended to depend from claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 10-13 and 15-20 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 9 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,672,698 to Sands (hereinafter "Sands"). With this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 9 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amended the dependence of claims 15-17. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 9 and 14-17 under § 102(b) is now moot.

New Claims

With this amendment applicant has added claims 21-65. Consideration and allowance of claims 21-65 is respectfully requested.

Final Remarks

Applicant submits that claims 10-13 and 15-65 are in condition for allowance along with previously allowed claims 1-8. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicant requests that this Amendment be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicant requests that any required fees for filing this Amendment be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

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